Tue Apr
Any Saturday

To Dr. Engelman.

Dear Sir.

I propose stopping at St. Louis a few days next week or later, and would be happy to have an interview with you. I write to inquire where you will be at home, and where particularly that home is.

I have several questions concerning our flora, which I have studied somewhat carefully, a solution to which you perhaps may give, than whom no one at "the West" is better able.

Please answer by return of Mail. and greatly oblige Yours truly —

Alphonso Wood.

Terre Haute, March 31. 1859.

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Rec'd Aug 10th
Ans Aug 29

TERRE HAUTE FEMALE COLLEGE.

Terre Haute, Ind. August 4, 1859

To Dr. Engelmann.

Dear Sir.

I regretted to leave St. Louis without another interview with you. I called twice the next day (according to appointment and you had been called out. I spent most of a day over on the Ill. bottoms, — found the Forestiera abundant, with fruit matured, swimming in handfuls on the water. I collected some other plants of interest to me, as several (3 at least) species of Nasturtium, Vitis indivisa, a Psinos, &c. I have found among my plants several other obscure specimens, not recognized by me. I enclose one, a miserable specimen, but it is all I have. — From Iowa. — a Composite — perhaps I ought to know it. If you recognize it at once, please name it to me.

Your great interest in this department, and ready kindness

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answering my difficulties, encourages me to ask of you a greater favor. My necessity compels me. I am destitute of the 2d Vol. of Elliott's Sketches of Southern Botany. The 1st I was fortunate enough to find in my Southern tour. and that only. Now so great is my present need of that book for a month or so, that I venture to request of you the loan of it? I promise to guard it most faithfully, and to return it in due time without perceptable injury. Should you grant this favor, the best way to send it would be by Express (Adams or American — both have offices near us here in Terre Haute.) —— Send it, and in token of my thanks I will send you a copy of my new Book of Botany when it is done!

Grateful for past favors I remain

Yours Respectfully & Truly.

Alphonso Wood.

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George Engelmann Papers

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Rec'd Sept 10th
Ans Oct 17

Terre Haute, Sept. 6. '59

Dr. G. Engelmann.

Dear Sir.

Thy book is rec'd and with many thanks. I can easily make all thy required use of it in 5 or 6 weeks. or less. — I regretted sending you that dilapidated Dysodia, as just after, I discovered a fine specimen which I had no difficulty in recognising.

Thy ~~Angelica~~ Paronychia which I enclose — What is it? It cannot be P. Jamesii, for its fls. are enveloped in scarious stipular bracts — It cannot be P. argyrocoma, for the sepals are tipped with a blunt rather than setaceous cusp. Moreover it has no sterile setae. — If it be new, I propose the name P. Shriveri, (after the gentleman who ~~found it sent it me~~ on a high pine-wood, hill in Maryland, Mr. Shriver. But, first I would know whether it be new or not. Please

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give me your opinion.

The other plant enclosed is recently from California - I have not given it much attention. If you readily recognize it please inform me. All which will very greatly oblige

Yours with high respect.

Alphonso Wood.

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Rec'd Oct 10th
Ans Oct 17

Terre Haute, Oct. 6. '59

To Dr Englemann.

Dear Sir.

A few weeks since I received from my friend Prof. Shriver of Md. quite a package of plants, among which were seven large specimens of what I sent you some ~~weeks~~ mouth ago as a new Paronychia. This large specimen is evidently Anychia or Quria - while the small one first rec'd was only query! — I send you this not for your information, of course, but to clear myself of the charge of apparent ignorance of a common plant.

Still, the slender style of that spec. puzzles me somewhat. Perhaps I did not observe aright.

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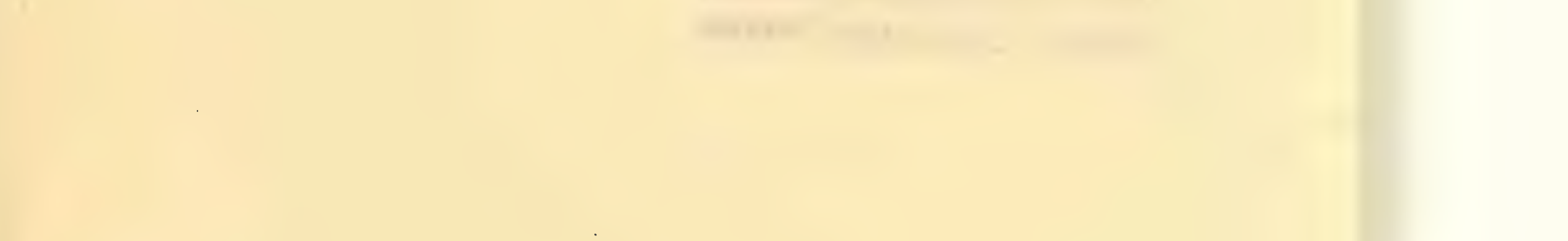
I shall return your copy of
Elliott (Vol. II) in a few days.
It has been useful to me.

Not to trouble you further, I
remain Very Respectfully Yrs.
Alphonso Wood.

P.S. Our College is very full, and my occupation very intense. If you could allow me to retain that book 3 weeks longer I should be obliged over much.



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Rec'd Nov 7th
Ans same Dy

Terre Haute. Nov. 3. 59

Dr Engelmann.

Dear Sir

I acknowledge your kindness with very much pleasure, in allowing me the further use of that Vol. which I can obtain nowhere else. and in the information conveyed concerning those Specimens. I have Numerants, which I would be very glad to have you notice. and shall try to snatch time to send you.

You mention a new publication by Dr Chapman — I visited him 2 years ago, at Apalachicola, saw his MS. and together with him turned over many of its pages — and have been looking with much anxiety for its issue. — Please inform me where it is being published, and who are the publishers, and where you saw a notice of it?

I took several trumps with him in Florida long to be remembered — also one with Dr Curtis of Hillsboro'

Will you plase inform me whether De Cand. has yet issued the Acanthaceae and if so, in which Vol.? I have no Vols. beyond Pars XIV — als Pars XI is wanting in my Library — Which contains Acanth?

Has Nuttl issued anything beyond Vol. or Synops S. V. Amaryll-idaceae? Thus far I have.

I congratulate you dear Sir on the completion of the Cudeutian and hope that I shall find a ~~sal~~ copy at once on its publication.

I go to N. York the 1st of Dec. previous to which I shall return your Vol II of Elliott.

Respectfully and Truly Yrs

Alphonso Wood.

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Rec'd Dec 7th
Ans Dec 29

Terre Haute, Dec. 4.

Dr Geo. Engelmann

Dear Sir

With many thanks I return your copy of Ell. (2d Vol.) — I go to N. York next week (Dec 10th) and shall search the market for that book — as I have not yet done with him.

I send 5 spec. of my Euphorbiaceae (leaving the duplicates). Should you find anything there you would like, please retain a specimen or two (returning me only one with your labeling) — I send the mass without attempting to rectify the nomenclature now. that you have kindly offered to do, and I most thankfully accept the offer.

I also send a few peculiar specimens of Alismaceae — and one (the only one I have left!) of my Rumex altissimus. I can find more next summer and shall not want

longer. Please accept it. Dr Gray has a specimen or two of the same

Can I do anything for you in N.Y?

Command me if I can.

I shall not want them specimens until after my return from N. Y. and perhaps not immediately then.

Respectfully & Truly

Yours

C. Wood

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Rec - Dec 28
Ans Dec 29

Terre Haute. Dec. 27. 1859

Dear Sir

I fell upon another small bundle of plants mostly Euphorbs, Some poor specimens — for in my rambling South in March, Apr. May, I had to take plants just as I found them without waiting for them to bloom or fruit. — Excuse me for troubling you with them.

I deferred my journy to N. Y. until next Tuesday (one week from this day) — Then I propose to set out. If you have affixed names to my labels sent, and may have done so also to those I now send, so as to return them this week, Saturday next, please do so, to my address Territtauth. If not convenient so soon, please send them to me at N. York, City. care of A.S. Barnes & Co. Book-Sellers.

Over

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Please dear Sir, retain anything
you may desire, merely sending me
a bit with the label. I shall remain
at N.Y. several wks. (4 to 6), accord-
ing to my present purpose.

Respectfully and truly
Yours
Alphonso Wood.

To Dr G. Engelmann

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Rec'd March 6th
Ans. March 8

Terre Haute, March 3. 1860

To Dr. Englmann.

Dear Sir.

I would thankfully acknowledge the return of the Euphorb. plants, which came just before I left for N. York city, whence I have recently returned. The purpose of my journey was to make a beginning in stereotyping a new Edit. of the "Class Book" &c. This I effected, a new beginning.

I have now reviewed my account of our Euph. plants, after the guidance of your notes. The aid thus afforded me is very great.

As to the locality of my E. mercurialina. I have no reason to doubt — (except the reasons which you suggest). I have been inquiring very carefully, but as yet cannot find that the label was wrong.

One species of Croton (= C. maritimus) gives me trouble. My plant so labeled (Hale) you have named C. Lindheimeri — Please drop me a line (I rely on your benevolence too much in asking this)

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just to state how C. Lindheimeri is to be distinguished from C. maritima, as the descr. of Waltar, Pursh, Ell. &c. appear to include both as one, and I have no specimens of the latter, if it be distinct.

Pleas also just say, is Stillingia ligustrina Mx. a good species?

I am duply interested to know that you are engaged in elaborating anew this vast Order. It must be a herculean Labor, I fear dear Sir, that such applications as I have lain made may be deemed unwarrantable by one employed on so great a work — If so — cast it aside —

It will be months before my MS. goes into the hand of the printer (i. e. the Euph.)

I have a class of 40 now pursuing this pleasant Study, in our Seminary —

Very truly Yours

Alpheus Wood.

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P. S. You expressed some intrest in seeing more of my Alimacae — Would it be in order now, to transmit them? and some other plants with lost labels?

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Asa Gray

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Rec'd May 7th 1860 Remarks . .
Ans June 13

Dear Sir.

Having a good opportunity to send you a little package to-day. I do so- but with doubt as to the propriety of thus troubling you. Certainly I cannot complain if you should return them all unexamined- yet I will know the benevolence of true Science. But some of these Specimens are miserable fragments — (and for that very reason I send them!) — Of course, dear Sir, you will bestow on them no more labor than you please — and for whatever light you shed upon them I shall be truly grateful.

I hope to be able in a few weeks to send you a copy of the first part or vol. of the revised "Class Book" — If you do not forbid, I shall deem myself too happy to acknowledge in it the aid I receive from you.

Have you studied our Palms? Please give me your views as to their Genera — which are Sabal — which Chamaerops — Or, still better, if you would, I would most respectfully ask Dr. Engelmann to elaborate that Order for my Flora (the U.S. east of the Mississippi R.). It surely is a grand subject.

over

Please return this package by Express
— keeping such duplicates or Spec. as may
be of any Service to you —

Very Respectfully

A. Wood

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George Engelmann Papers

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Rec? Jun 19 84
Ans Jun 21 "

Terre Haute, June 13.

Dr. Engelmann.

Honored & dear Sir.

Some 10 weeks ago I sent you a small package of specimens, by Express (but in another package addressed to [illegible] Texas [illegible] Illinois) As I have not heard from you, I drop this line, requesting that if you have not rec'd it, you will just signify it by a line — If you have, I desire to say that about the first of July I am to leave Terre Haute finally, for a residence (after a few months, Deo volente,) in the City of Brooklyn N. Y. So that if convenient, I would very much desire you to send the package some time this month. If not sent this month, it may be addressed to me at Cincinnati, Care of Moore,

Wilstach, Keys, & Co. during the month of July. —

I have just rec'd ~~the~~ a copy of the first vol. of Wood's New "Class-Book of Botany" — the scientific part only —. I shall do myself the pleasure of sending you a copy as soon as I obtain another.

I hope you will not be displeased with the notices of your name containd in the Preface.

Very Respectfully Yours.

Alphonso Wood.

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—— P. S. I had written as above, and at the P. O. found your favor of the 12 th. In regard to the Palms I can only say, that I have only one correspondent now, living near the region of the Palms. I will write him at once, and if possible obtain the required specimens. I was in Florida too-early for their fruit. Yet, dear Sir, I must own that it is doubtful, as he dwells alternately in Virginia and Fla. and where he now may be I know not. I will, however, do my best to obtain specimens.

As to the time when I may the return of those specimens, I have already said enough. But your request in the matter of the use of your name gives me pain, for I have already used it! but in the preface only, and I cannot but think that you will pardon me when

shall use it — as it is so used as surely not to make you in the least responsible for any of the errors and blunders which may yet appear in this volume.

One thing I am confident of, that is, that my new book, whatever may be its imperfections, will possess the charm of novelty and adaptation, and will be used more extensively than any school botany yet issued.

A. W.

I have just completed an analytical Table of the Carices !! Won't that be a curiosity? — for the 200 species of the U.S.! A tyro in botany can use it.

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Rec'd Nov 28/8
Ans Nov 29

Brooklyn N. Y. Nov. 22. '60

To Dr Engelmann.

My Dear Sir —

If I am in need of an apology for my long silence respecting the reception of your last letter (in August) accompanying the Package of plants, I have one ready. The printers have been at my heels for three months! Thank God, I am now almost beyond their reach. Of the said book of plants at which I have been laboring for years, 810 pages are now in Electrotype, and only 15 more to be printed! Much of my success (if there be success) is due to your kind aid. and now I ask one more favor. That Pamphlet containing an acct of 2 new Grasses, by you I kept at hand with infinite care until its Order — the grass, should be readed — When at length that Order was readed, that pamphlet was not. be found! What

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because of it is a mystery. But it is lost. But I have a blank in the Grass Order, left to be filled in it. Will you Dear Sir take the trouble to send me another copy <u>at once</u>? If not within 10 days it may be inserted and I should be very sorry to have it omitted.

Of course I have done up after a fashion the Euphorbiaceae, Alismaceae and Palmaceae — and a <u>table</u> for the Cariçes! I hope to send you a specimen copy within a month.

Very Respectfully Yours

A. Upshaw Woodson

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Rec'd Dec 17

(Box 17)

Brooklyn. N.Y. Dec. 12. 1860

To Dr Englmann

Honored Sir.

Your favors of the 28th ult.
are duly received. The printers, meantime,
had driven the work at an unexpected rate,
and had cast the last page plate of the Grasses
when your pamphlet arrived. But I perceive
on examination, that the localities of those
new Grasses heretofore known, are all outside
of the territorial limits of my Flora. This
I ought to have known before troubling you
to send it me the second time. But I have adopted
as a needful rule, during my progress through
our flora to devote attention to the several de-
partments in their coincidence order. Since
your excellent work on the Cucurbineae was
long since in order, and done with. Their on
the Grasses was deferred (until the Grams should
be reached) with a more cursory examination.
at first. Hence I failed to observe their locality
at that time.

. My limits aforesaid, are within the U.S. E. of the Mississippi R. except the Southern peninsula of Florida (as stated in Prospectus) also N. to the R. St. Lawrence.

The Class Book of Botany, &c. &c. is written by a practical Teacher for the use of learners. It is not designed so much to extend the limits of the Science as to render what was already known available to Students. Meantime, I have labored to throw what light I could on obscure portions of our flora. without pretending to be a pioneer. But I do profess to have prepared a book for the students use. either solitary or in Classes, which for convenience, fullness, and perspicuity, excels by far any similar work yet published either in this Country or in England (I have seen Bentham's new English Flora since mine was all written, never before). The tables place notice, and test. They are in use simpler than any I have ever seen and while artificial, they do all (or 9 10ths of them) finally end in the natural arrangement of the groups to which they relate.

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You will perceive also my dear Sir, that I have resisted unnecessary or doubtful innovations in nomenclature — have described scarcely at all except from personal observation, and have founded my tables not on words but things. The introduction of some 900 species of cultivated plants will facilitate the study of Classes in Cities, &c.

The book goes to press to-day; so that in the first week in January bound copies may be obtainable. I shall do myself the pleasure to send you a copy early, and now permit me to add, that your approbation would give me the highest pleasure — If it should so happen that on inspection you should form a judgement favorable to the utility of the book in Schools and such colleges as the Washington College, would you send me (~~of~~ or the Publishers) a line to that effect If on the contrary, you doubt or condemn — the last favor I can ask is silence.

With gratitud and the highest respect.

I remain Your Obd't Servt Alphonso Wood

P. S. I did not ask you to furnish an approving or commendatory notice for the Journals (such as the "Procedings of the Acad[] of Science of St Louis") — but, of course, if you deem the work meritorious in any way, that would be of great value to us — might be beneficial to thousands.

Pleas notice the large genera of the Grasses, as Panicum. Paspalum Poa &c — Some light, I think, is shed on them.

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